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P.I.E.R.R.E.¹ and the Agents of R.E.A.S.O.N.²

Keith Aoki*

PROLOGUE

There once was a man named Pierre

Who to Legal Pundits said:

I just don't care,
for all your implausible schemes
and high-minded dreams,
dreamt up to hide Reason's disrepair.

So see this story, my friend

And perhaps in the end

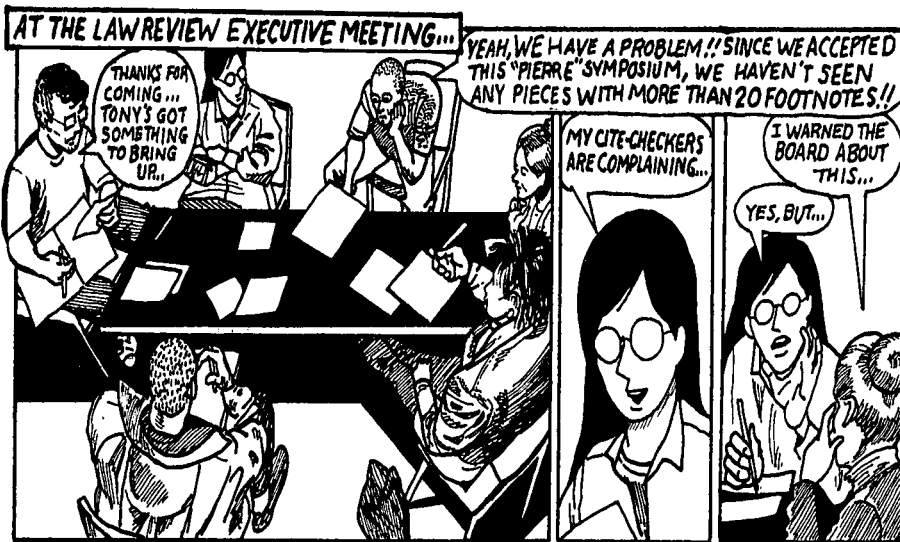
You can draw

Your own conclusions there.

¹ Phenomenonologic Iterative Eschatologic Revanchist Rogue Existentialists (P.I.E.R.R.E.); see also Pierre Schlag, *THE ENCHANTMENT OF REASON* (1998).

² Rational Epistemic Analytic Systemic Ontologic Normativos (R.E.A.S.O.N.)

* Professor, University of Oregon School of Law. Sincere thanks for encouragement and comments to Pierre Schlag, Anthony Paul Farley, Maria Grahn-Farley, Michael Fischl, Phylliss Goldfarb, Peter Goodrich, Duncan Kennedy, Bert Westbrook, as well as Dean Dennis Lynch and the rest of the participants in the February 2002 "Beyond Right and Reason" Symposium hosted by the University of Miami School of Law. Particular gratitude is due to Professor Martha Ertman for introducing me to Maurice Sendak's book, "PIERRE: A CAUTIONARY TALE IN FIVE CHAPTERS AND A PROLOGUE," (Harper & Row, 1962) thereby providing both a conceptual frame and a jumping off point. Thanks are also due to the work of Jim Steranko, Jack Kirby and Stan Lee who created "NICK FURY, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D." for Marvel Comics in the 1960s and served as a stylistic touchstone and inspiration. And thanks to Francisco Goya & Beto Juarez.



NORM ATIVO, AGENT OF R.E.A.S.O.N. !
RATIONAL EPISTEMIC ANALYTIC SYSTEMIC ONTOLOGIC NORMATIVOS

BLOWBACK!



IT'S
NORM ATIVO
--EXACTLY
AS THEORY
PREDICTS!!

IN A TOP SECRET
UNDERGROUND
FORTRESS, AN ALL-SEEING
PANOPTIC VIDEOSCREEN
OPERATED BY A TEAM
OF MERCILESS, FANATIC
ANTI-RATIONALISTS
PURVEYS A FATEFUL
SIGHT!!!

HE IS ALL
ALONE!!!

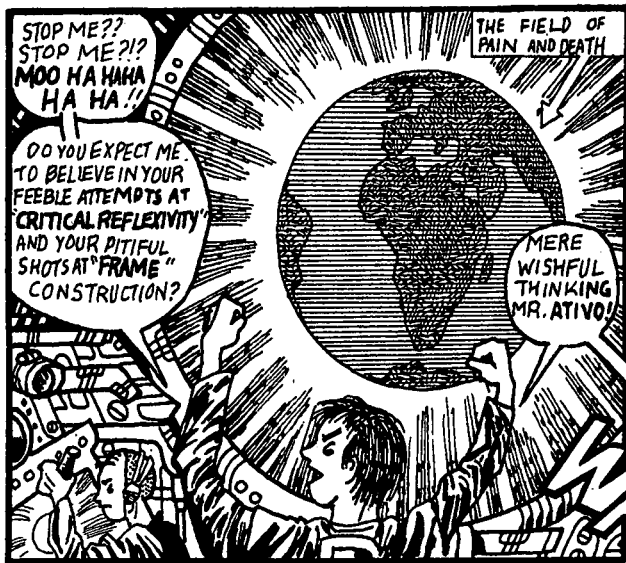
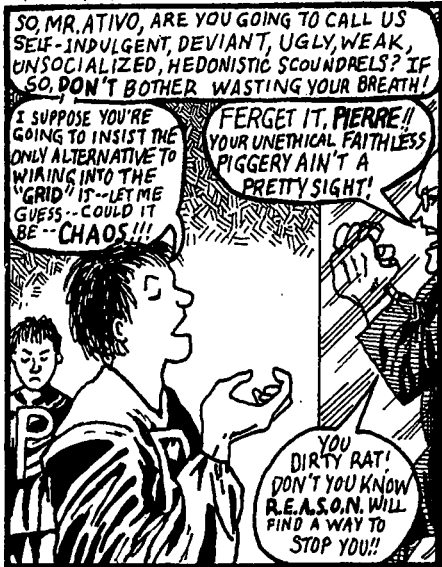
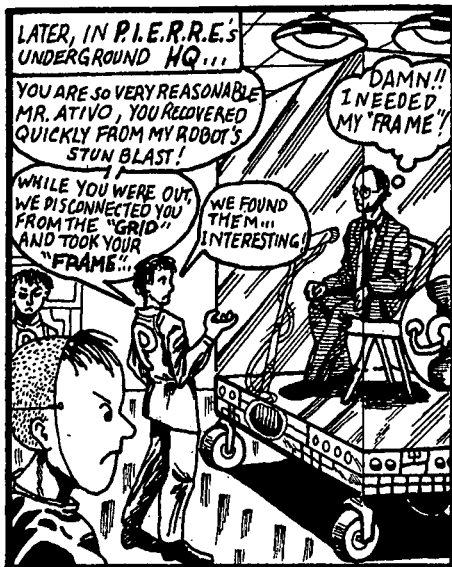
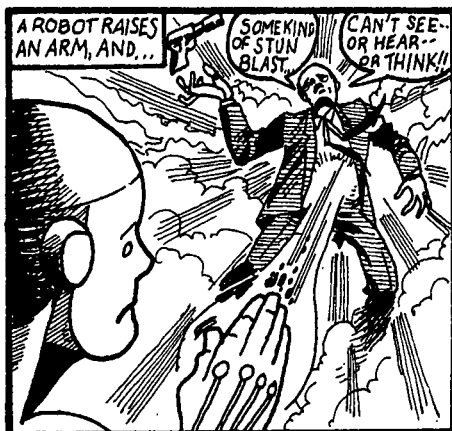
HE MUST
FEEL BOLD IN
KNOWING THAT
R.E.A.S.O.N.
ALWAYS PREVAILS!

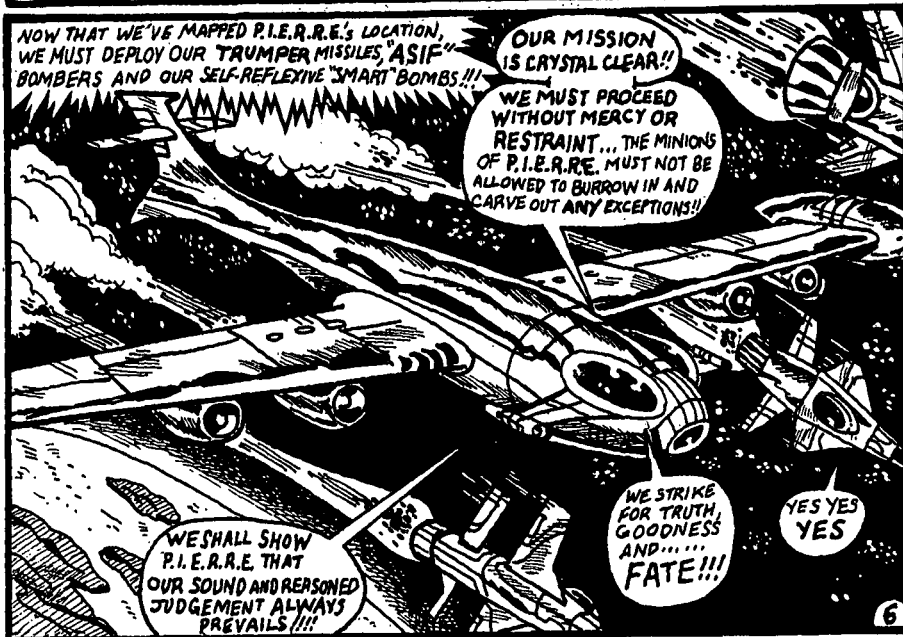
HE'S WEARING
ONE OF REASON'S
LATEST AUTO-DIDACT
TRANSPORT PODS
FOR SURREPTITIOUS
DESCENT!

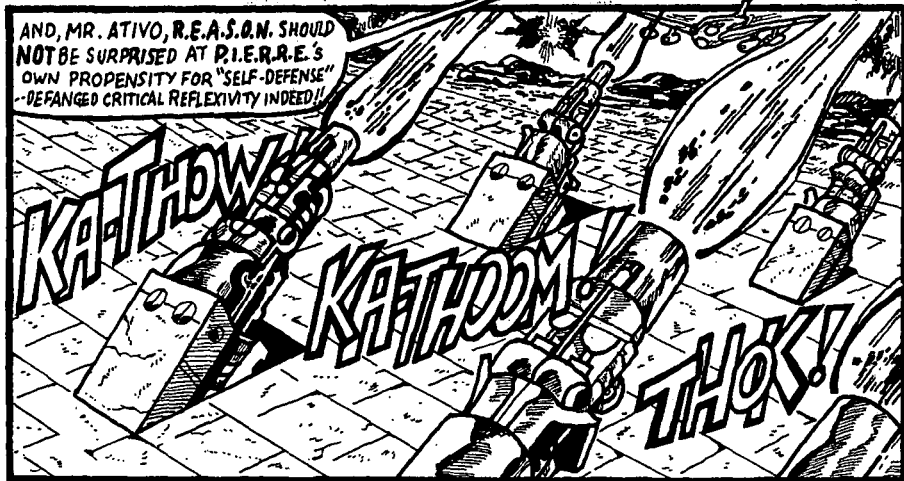
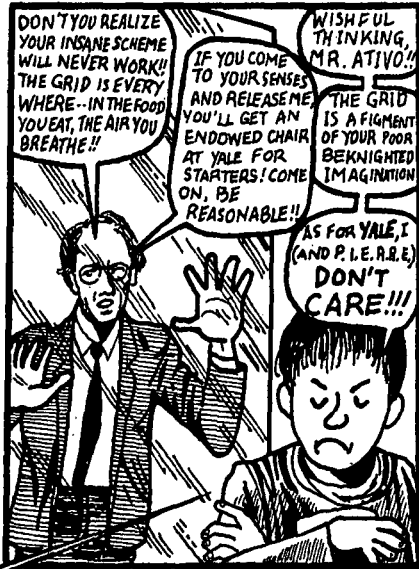
IT'S CLEAR
IT RUNS ON
HIGHLY-PRESSURED
HOT AIR!!

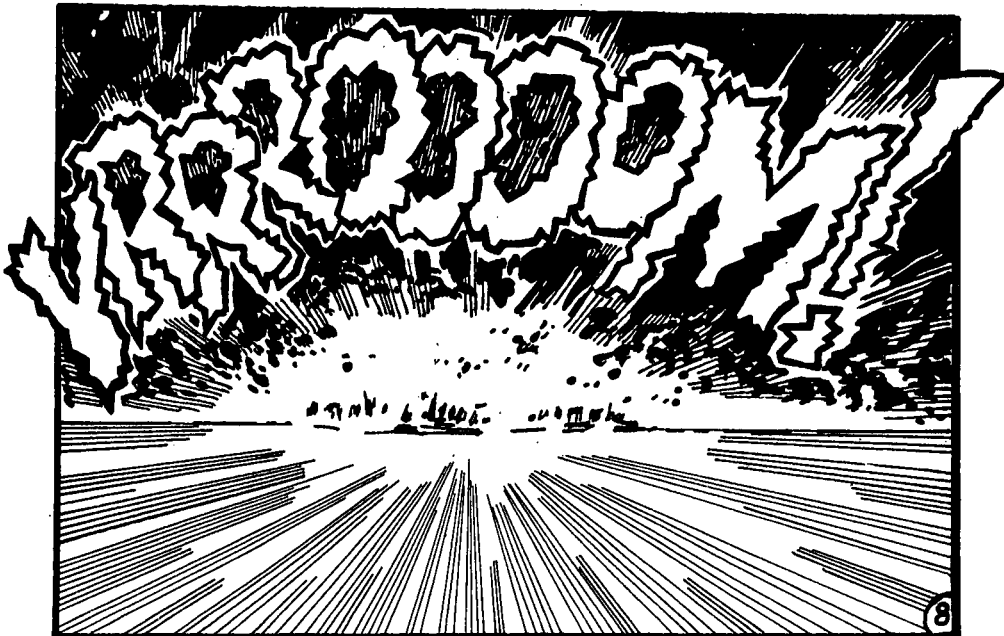
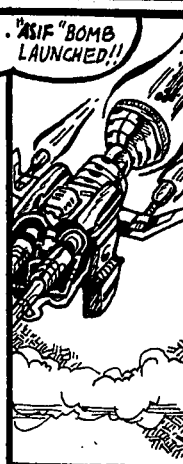
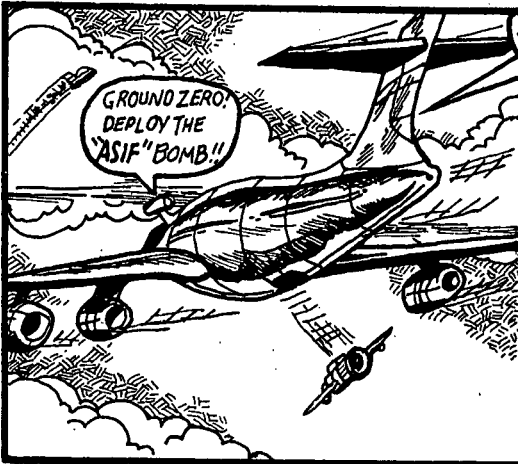
...LIKE A SMALLER
VERSION OF REASON'S
VAST ACADEMIC
HOVERING
HEADQUARTERS!

...LITTLE
DOES HE KNOW
THAT HE WILL
NEVER SEE HIS
PRECIOUS LITTLE
LEGAL GRID
AGAIN!!!



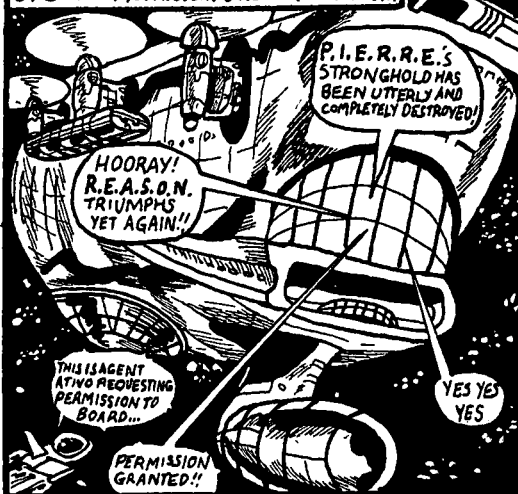








BACK AT R.E.A.S.O.N.'S HEADQUARTERS...



P.I.E.R.R.E.'S STRONGHOLD HAS BEEN UTTERLY AND COMPLETELY DESTROYED!

HOORAY! R.E.A.S.O.N. TRIUMPHS YET AGAIN!!

THIS IS AGENT ATIVO REQUESTING PERMISSION TO BOARD...

PERMISSION GRANTED!!

YES YES YES

AS THE FAUX NORM ATIVO DEPLANES...

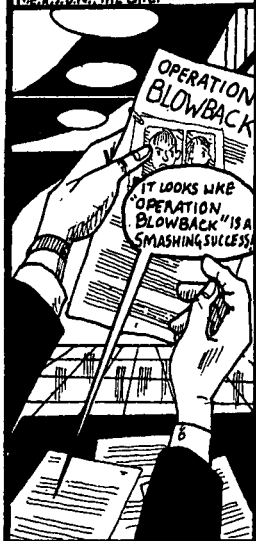


HEY NORM!! WAY TO GO!!

YO NORM!! YOU SURE KICKED P.I.E.R.R.E.'S BUTT!!

THANKS GUYS, BUT IT'S JUST ANOTHER DAY! I HAVE TO TALK TO THE BOSS! GOTTA GO!!

IN THE SANCTUM SANCTORUM OF R.E.A.S.O.N., THE CHIEF REFLECTS...



IT LOOKS LIKE 'OPERATION BLOWBACK' IS A SMASHING SUCCESS.

SIR, YOU HAVE THE REPORT THAT SHOWS HOW P.I.E.R.R.E. WAS ERADICATED--YOU KNOW OUR MOTTO: "TAKE RIGHTS SERIOUSLY!"



AHH... AGENT ATIVO!! CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR MISSION!

SIR, I CAME TO SEE YOU IN PERSON TO TELL YOU THAT THE JIG IS UP FOR THE GRID OF R.E.A.S.O.N.! YOU SEE...

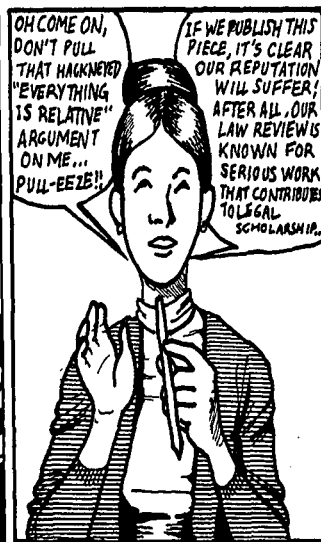


MUH?! WHAT IN HELL ARE YOU SAYING WHAT?!

THE "REAL" NORM ATIVO IS DEAD, BLOWN TO BITS BY "ASF" BOMBS! P.I.E.R.R.E. SURVIVES AND I AM HERE TO DESTROY R.E.A.S.O.N. FROM WITHIN!!



NEXT: R.E.A.S.O.N. WITHOUT END ?/4



*So, the Pundits did scold
But failed to behold
The fact that Pierre didn't care
About how reason's delusion³
Leads to entropic confusion
And the further dissolution
Of Legal Thought into thin air.*

The "Moral" of P.I.E.R.R.E.
may be: **BEWARE!**

³ "El Encanto de la Razón Produce Monstruos También" ("The Enchantment of Reason Produces Monsters Too").



